

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2018

Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Michael Spencer. He announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Town Manager Wendy King, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, and Solicitor Chris Griffiths. Acting Police Chief Mark Wohner and Commissioner CarolAnn Gretz were absent.

Minutes from the meeting of June 21, 2018, were approved via motion by Vice Mayor Joswick and seconded by Commissioner Czerwinski. All ayes.

Public Comment- Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna & Associates, thanked the town for its continued support of the DE Kids Fund Annual 5K and noted that already \$20,000 was donated. Proceeds will benefit Richey School in the development of a food closet that will assist food-challenged families. Mayor Spencer noted that New Castle County Councilman Ken Woods was in the audience.

Town Manager King presented her report. Alderman Sczcerba was sworn in. Property tax collection was 93% to date. Outstanding property issues will be worked on. Properties are transferring quickly in the 19804 zip code. Audit report will be given at the August meeting. Budget review.

Town Manager King reviewed monthly police department statistics in Acting Chief Wohner's absence. Mayor Spencer asked about the impending sale of the Charger. It will happen after Acting Chief Wohner returns from vacation.

Town Manager King reviewed monthly report for Court 42. The Alderman Court collected \$40,743 in fines for June.

Maintenance Report was reviewed and no questions were asked.

Code Enforcement - Same issues were noted - parking and grass. Police have been visible at the stop sign at S. Marshall Street where people are running through the stop sign. There has been good compliance with out of town contractors obtaining their business license. No Parking sign in front of Ella Johnson Park briefly went missing but was found and will be put back up.

Vice Mayor Joswick wanted to know what a "bus license" is - it is actually short for "business."

Solicitor Griffiths worked on an administrative town issue, tax delinquencies, FOIA requests for the News Journal and two items for Acting Chief Wohner.

Commissioners – Vice Mayor Joswick mentioned that he had seen the new police vehicles and was happy to see that those vehicles had cages installed in them.

Mayor Spencer received an email from Craig Stevens, Deldot, stating that the James Street Bridge project was going to be constructed as the original plan indicated with the exception of full demolition of the old bridge. The ends would be used as fishing piers. Construction is to begin approximately summer 2019. He constructed a letter to be attached to an application for a feasibility study for a bike path that would connect from the industrial park to the "Markell" bridge. He mentioned attending a meeting at the IPA and that the IPA has classes and workshops available to local government officials. The traffic light situation at the square in the center of town has improved a bit – it is still not great, but better than it was. There are a few items that probably should be updated in the town's charter. Those items will be discussed in the coming months.

Town Manager King received a phone call from a property owner on the corner of Larch Avenue and Route 4 who was asking about annexing into town. She advised that she would need a letter of interest addressed to council.

Mayor Spencer motioned to adjourn; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.